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A Word From Tim Downs - December 2011



Dear Friends,

Joy to the World!

I am writing to you in the middle of Advent, mindful that we Christians living in the rhythms of the liturgical year are once again out of sync with the world arouafter Thanksgiving and as the Christmas tree in Rockefeller Plaza burst into light and the choir sang “Joy to the World, the Lord is come!” I thought “No! No! Not yet, not just yet!” We need to sing first “come thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free...”

Advent is sometimes called “the little Lent”, it is a time to linger, a gift of reflection on the magnitude of God’s promise to us in the Christ child, a gift magnified by the world’s brokenness, by those “who mourn in lonely exile here...”. This Advent my heart has turned to the many that have been touched by the ministries of outreach, advocacy, and healing, you, the churches of the Southeast Conference have undertaken. There are the families of people imprisoned who are driven to visit their loved ones, and many of our churches that have opened their doors and embraced folk who have been turned away from other communities of faith. We have churches in Alabama making a bold witness to immigrants, including the undocumented, knowing that we are called to welcome the sojourner. You have fed the hungry, tutored those longing for knowledge, and touched many who have lost their homes and communities to disaster. You, the churches of the Southeast Conference together gathered truckloads of food, wrote thousands of letters of advocacy, and gave thousands of dollars to bring hope to the hungry through Mission 1.

By these and many other acts of caring love and justice, you have carried the light of Christ into the shadowed corners of the world around us. You have been an Advent people in wonderful and faithful ways, and I am deeply grateful for your witness. You



will receive this letter from me on as we are taking the final steps toward the stable. The staff of the Southeast Conference and I wish you all a Christmas of wonder and

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Headlines from the United Church of Christ

UCC General Minister and President, the Rev. Geoffrey A. Black, shares the joy of Christmas

UCC General Minister and President, The Rev. Geoffrey A. Black, Shares Christmas Joy



joy as we stand together at the manger marveling at the God who comes to us through a crying infant.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Tim Downs
Timothy C. Downs
Conference Minister

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▶ Conference Minister

▶ TAP Director

▶ SEC Donations

▶ Church Development

▶ Communications Director

SECUCC RESOURCES

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FAVORITE LINKS

▶ Bridge 4 Faith

▶ The Center for Progressive Renewal

▶ United Church of Christ

▶ Mission Insite

▶ Resource Center

EVENTS CALENDAR

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